

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

January Livestock Slaughter
Honey Production
Prices Received By Farmers
U.S. Farm & Wage Rates

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during January totaled 1.0 million pounds, down 9 percent from December and 17 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during January, unchanged from December but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 901 pounds, down 29 pounds from the previous month but 34 pounds above January 2004. Total live weight, at 948,000 pounds, was 7 percent below the previous month and 16 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during January totaled 600 head, unchanged from December and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 475 pounds, down 16 pounds from December and a year ago. Total live weight, at 295,000 pounds, was down 2 percent from December but 2 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during January totaled 1,700 head, down 1,000 head from the previous month and 200 head below January 2004. Average live weight was 190 pounds, up 31 pounds from December but 13 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 325,000 pounds, 23 percent below December and 14 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during January was 100 head,

the same as December and the previous year. Live weight averaged 85 pounds, up 3 pounds from the previous month but 1 pound below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.65 billion pounds in January, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in January 2004.

January 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. January 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.92 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, down 2 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was 1,262 pounds, up 13 pounds from January a year ago.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 17 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,700 head, down 14 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was 329 pounds, down 7 pounds from January a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.48 million head, 4 percent below January 2004. The average live weight was 270 pounds, up 1 pound from January a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was down 7 percent from January 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 208,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 3 pounds from January a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

| Item | Louisiana | | | United States | |
|---------------|--|---------|------|--|-----------|
| | December | January | | January | |
| | 2004 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 |
| | -----Thousand head----- | | | -----Thousand head----- | |
| Cattle | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 2,576.8 | 2,527.6 |
| Calves | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 79.0 | 67.7 |
| Hogs | 2.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 8,789.3 | 8,478.1 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 219.2 | 208.5 |
| | -----Total live weight, thousand pounds----- | | | -----Total live weight, thousand pounds----- | |
| Cattle | 1,020 | 1,131 | 948 | 3,218,688 | 3,189,529 |
| Calves | 300 | 290 | 295 | 26,541 | 22,285 |
| Hogs | 423 | 380 | 325 | 2,363,663 | 2,288,114 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 7 | 8 | 9 | 30,833 | 28,758 |
| | -----Average live weight, pounds----- | | | -----Average live weight, pounds----- | |
| Cattle | 930 | 867 | 901 | 1,249 | 1,262 |
| Calves | 491 | 491 | 475 | 336 | 329 |
| Hogs | 159 | 203 | 190 | 269 | 270 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 82 | 86 | 85 | 141 | 138 |
| | -----Million pounds----- | | | -----Million pounds----- | |
| Red Meat | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 3,714.0 | 3,646.9 |

Louisiana Honey Production

Honey production from producers with five or more hives in Louisiana during 2004 totaled 3.43 million pounds, up 12 percent from 2003. The number of colonies, at 35,000, was up 1,000 from 2003. Honey stocks on December 15, 2004, amounted to 240,000 pounds, down 35,000 pounds from 2003.

The average price received for honey sold during 2004 was 79 cents per pound, down 45 cents from 2003. The value of the 2004 honey crop was 2.71 million dollars, down 29 percent from the previous year.

United States Honey Production up 1 Percent

U.S. honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2004 were lower than the previous year for all color classes except the All Other Honey, Area Specialties class. Honey prices for 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield and Production¹

| Selected States | Number of Colonies | | Yield Per Colony | | Production | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 |
| | -----1,000 Colonies----- | | -----Pounds----- | | -----1,000 Pounds----- | |
| Alabama | 13 | 12 | 82 | 87 | 1,066 | 1,044 |
| Arkansas | 40 | 40 | 75 | 57 | 3,000 | 2,280 |
| Georgia | 52 | 63 | 65 | 49 | 3,380 | 3,087 |
| Louisiana | 34 | 35 | 90 | 98 | 3,060 | 3,430 |
| Mississippi | 21 | 18 | 69 | 65 | 1,449 | 1,170 |
| Texas | 140 | 116 | 67 | 76 | 9,380 | 8,816 |
| United States | 2,599 | 2,556 | 70 | 71.8 | 181,727 | 183,582 |

Honey: Stocks, Price and Values¹

| Selected States | Stocks, December 15 ² | | Average Price Per Pound ³ | | Value of Production | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 |
| | -----1,000 Pounds----- | | -----Cents----- | | -----1,000 Dollars----- | |
| Alabama | 43 | 282 | 124 | 140 | 1,322 | 1,462 |
| Arkansas | 810 | 388 | 126 | 90 | 3,780 | 2,052 |
| Georgia | 270 | 648 | 128 | 118 | 4,326 | 3,643 |
| Louisiana | 275 | 240 | 124 | 79 | 3,794 | 2,710 |
| Mississippi | 246 | 421 | 129 | 80 | 1,869 | 936 |
| Texas | 1,126 | 1,411 | 140 | 96 | 13,132 | 8,463 |
| United States | 40,785 | 61,222 | 138.7 | 108.5 | 253,106 | 201,790 |

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Prices weighted by sales.

February Farm Prices Received Index Up 2 Points From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points above the January Index. The Crop Index is up 5 points while the Livestock Index is down 1 point. Producers received higher prices for tomatoes, oranges, broccoli and celery. Lower prices were received for corn, dairy, hogs and soybeans. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, broilers and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco and wheat.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 3 points from February 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 117, is 2 points above last month but the same as February 2004.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from January but 3 points above February 2004. Lower prices in February for self propelled machinery, feed grains and LP gas were offset by higher prices for feed concentrates, complete feeds, feed supplements and other machinery.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: January 2005

| Item | Louisiana | | | United States | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| | Entire Month | | Preliminary | Entire Month | | Preliminary |
| | February 2004 | January 2005 | February ¹ 2005 | February 2004 | January 2005 | February ¹ 2005 |
| | -----Dollars----- | | | -----Dollars----- | | |
| Soybeans, per bushel | 8.41 | 5.93 | 5.20 | 8.28 | 5.57 | 5.39 |
| Rice, per cwt | 8.65 | 7.81 | 7.84 | 8.23 | 7.16 | 6.83 |
| Upland cotton, per pound | .613 | .414 | .399 | .619 | .396 | .381 |
| Hay, all, baled, per ton | n/a | n/a | n/a | 81.20 | 84.20 | 84.70 |
| Beef Cattle, per cwt ² | 57.20 | 65.80 | 66.60 | 78.50 | 89.40 | 89.60 |
| Steers & Heifers, per cwt | 88.40 | 101.00 | 104.00 | 82.30 | 94.40 | 93.80 |
| Cows, per cwt ³ | 45.10 | 50.70 | 52.00 | 46.00 | 50.50 | 52.80 |
| Calves, per cwt | 105.00 | 117.00 | 122.00 | 111.00 | 125.00 | 128.00 |
| Broilers, live, per pound | n/a | n/a | n/a | .470 | .430 | .430 |
| Eggs, all, per dozen | n/a | n/a | n/a | .875 | .558 | .549 |
| Milk, all, per cwt ⁴ | n/a | n/a | n/a | 13.60 | 15.90 | 15.40 |

¹ Mid-month.

² "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

³ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁴ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available.

United States Farm Labor

There were 749,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2005, down 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 574,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 175,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.81 per hour during the January 2005 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.73 per hour, up 34 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.19 per hour compared with \$8.83 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.91 per hour, was up 36 cents from last year.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

| Items | Delta ¹ | | | United States | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | January 2004 | October 2004 | January 2005 | January 2004 | October 2004 ² | January 2005 |
| | -----Thousand workers----- | | | -----Thousand workers----- | | |
| Hired Workers (All) | 21 | 33 | 18 | 847 | 1,175 | 749 |
| Ag Service Workers | --- | --- | --- | 185 | 324 | 175 |
| Hired Workers | 21 | 33 | 18 | 662 | 851 | 574 |
| 150 Days or More | 18 | 25 | 16 | 549 | 606 | 478 |
| 149 Days or More | 3 | 8 | 2 | 113 | 245 | 96 |
| | -----Per week----- | | | -----Per week----- | | |
| Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers) | 32.4 | 37.3 | 30.7 | 38.1 | 40.5 | 36.8 |
| | -----Per Hour----- | | | -----Per Hour----- | | |
| Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers) | 9.03 | 8.17 | 9.29 | 9.41 | 9.32 | 9.81 |
| By Type of Worker | | | | | | |
| Field | 8.57 | 7.78 | 9.52 | 8.39 | 8.62 | 8.73 |
| Livestock | 8.71 | 8.23 | 7.63 | 8.83 | 8.91 | 9.19 |

¹ Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

² Revised.

---Data not published

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